



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 11/08/2012

Capital Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2012

In attendance were:

Steve Andrew*
Andrew Flanagan
Charles Foscett
Paul Olsen
Brian Rehrig
Diane Johnson
Ruth Lewis
Anthony Lionetta
Barbara Thornton

* Denotes those not in attendance

- Meeting Opened: The meeting was opened and members were provided with packets, including an updated Capital Plan, various subcommittee reports and other materials. Minutes of the October 26th meeting were approved.
- Central Fire Station: The requested revised presentation submitted by Jeff Shaw from Donham & Sweeney on projected cost for the Central Fire Station Renovations was reviewed. The CPC voted to proceed with the updated amount of \$6.1 million. This requires a significant adjustment in amount currently carried in the capital plan.
- School Department Requests: Barbara Thornton reported on the subcommittee's meeting with the School Department. (written report provided) Barbara noted that the report has three sections 1) Overview, 2) Highlighted Requests, and 3) Balance of the requests (to be done at the next meeting.) Highlighted comments are follows:

Thoughts about adding more space (externally) at Ottoson have been abandoned in that the "baby count" is down. The current plan is to make some internal modifications to the building to get through the increase in students.

There was a discussion on the High School. Major capital investment in the High School is looming for the near future (approx. 10 years out), however this is not currently reflected in the Capital Plan. There are concerns about acting now on capital requests in that these investments may not be retained in a future rebuild/rehab project.

Charlie Foscett made a request of the School Department to prepare a program of what needs to be done at the High School so that we all can make better decisions what should be done in the interim (between now and when the actual school project is expected to occur). Diane suggested that this program be done following the State's accreditation audit, which is scheduled to take place shortly. It was noted that these audits take place every ten years. Results / Finding of this audit are expected to be out within a year and they generally include recommendation for the physical plant. There was agreement that the High School Program should be done after these audit results are in hand.

Chiller System at Pierce (\$150k): Pierce is the summer home for the special needs programs. This chiller is needed to solve an ongoing problem and allow for summer programs to be conducted. Given the history of the ongoing problem, Charlie Foskett requested a report on what the problem is and why the chiller is the solution.

Boiler AHS Building F (\$225k): Following the general conversation on the high school, it was agreed to go forward with this request in that the system is reportedly close to failing. On the issue, of upgrading the technology to be more energy efficient (which will cost significantly more), it was recommended that a cost analysis be done on the energy savings to be realized over the next ten years in comparison to the additional cost for upgraded system.

Major Equipment Music Department (\$14k): This request is major musical instruments, as well as a new sound system for each school (\$3,400). The discussion focused on whether these are really capital items, given their relatively small individual costs. Arguments on both sides of the issue were aired. No decision was made.

Thompson School Furnishings (\$200k): This request is to provide a "safety net" in case the current Thompson School fund is exhausted. This request was denied and the School Department was asked to work within the budget previously agreed too.

Other High School Requests (Lab furnishings, New Seating and A/C in Lowe Auditorium) were put on hold until the High School Program is developed and provided to the CPC.

Stratton School Requests: These were approved given the Town's commitments related to the school rebuild program and the issue of fairness to this neighborhood.

Turf Replacement (\$500k): The CPC asked Diane Johnson and Ruth Lewis to investigate what funds are left over in prior field related requests, as well as funds provided by the responsible parties. These funds should be used to reduce this request. School Department should provide an updated number.

- Recreation's Request for Transfer of funds: Andrew Flanagan presented a request from Recreation to transfer unused funds from one account to another >> \$8k needed for follow-up work in the Thorndike Leash Area. CPC voted in the affirmative to support this transfer.
- Planning Department Requests. Charlie Foskett reported on the subcommittee's meeting with Planning Department (written report provided). Highlights are that 1) the Retaining Wall request is being retracted, 2) the Broadway Plaza request is denied until after the Master Plan is completed and, 3) P & L information has been provided for Town managed buildings. The Subcommittee will review these P & L's and update the CPC on its findings. It is noted that the Town Manager's office is taking over the management of these properties and accounts.
- Rink Requests. Charlie Foskett reported on the Subcommittee's meeting with Recreation (written report provided). The subcommittee feels that Joe Connelly is on top of things and has maxed out fees. Also, noted is that the State (DCR) still owns the rink and the Town is seeking to address this over FY13. Andrew Flanagan reported that projections show that the Recreation will be able to exceed the 50% contribution to capital debts agreed too with the Town in 2009. Brian Rehrig raised a question if solar panels have been considered for the rink roof.
- Treasurer's Requests: Charlie Foskett reported on the Subcommittee's meeting. (written report provided). The subcommittee recommends that the parking meter replacement request be postponed until the after parking study is completed. Paul Olson noted that these meters (actually 4 kiosks) are in very bad shape. If they do not work, we lose fee revenue and we get people upset who are trying to use them. Also, we may not be able to legitimately ticket parkers, if these systems are not operating. An option may be to take them out of services and post two hour parking limits with parking officers monitoring the time spent. It was agreed that this is a question for the Board of Selectmen to answer.
- Next meeting: November 15, 2012.

Adjournment

